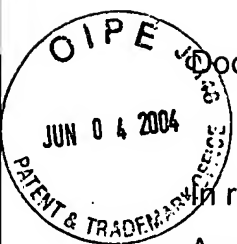


IFW
AF/2823



Docket No. AF01159

FASP714US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re **PATENT** application of:

Applicant: Angela Hui, et al.
Application No.: 10/045,354
For: AN INNOVATIVE METHOD OF HARD MASK REMOVAL
Filing Date: November 7, 2001
Examiner: Khiem D Nguyen
Art Unit: 2823

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 14, 2004

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.